

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 04231 241846Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 SP-02 ICA-20 NSC-05 TRSE-00  
SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 /094 W  
-----103659 250436Z /13-11  
R 241501Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1356

UNCLAS KINGSTON 4231

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, JM  
SUBJECT: STRIKE THREATENS IN THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY

REF: A. KINGSTON 3945; B. KINGSTON 3591

1. A STRIKE OVER A NEW WAGE SETTLEMENT THREATENS THE BAUXITE INDUSTRY. ALL CONTRACTS CONCERNING HOURLY PAID WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRY EXPIRE ON MAY 31. THE COMPANIES HAVE INFORMED THE UNION (THE NATIONAL BAUXITE AND ALUMINA COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL WORKERS UNION) THAT IF AN AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED BEFORE THAT TIME, THEY WILL NOT PAY RETROACTIVELY ANY WAGE INCREASES NEGOTIATED UNDER A NEW CONTRACT. THE INCREASES WOULD TAKE EFFECT ONLY AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE NEW CONTRACT.

2. THE COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRY NOTED THAT THE ACTION PROPOSED BY THE COMPANY "RUNS CONTRARY TO TRADITIONAL TRADE UNION PRACTICES OVER THE YEARS. AS A RESULT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE WORKERS AND THE NATIONAL WORKERS UNION (NWU) CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DISRUPTION IN THE INDUSTRY AFTER JUNE 1". THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE UNION AND ALL FIVE COMPANIES HAS ALREADY BEEN REFERRED TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR.

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3. THE COUNCIL WENT ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF THE STATEMENT BY NWU PRESIDENT CARLYLE DUNKLEY REJECTING THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW WAGE GUIDELINES.

4. THE DAILY GLEANER OF MAY 22 REPORTED A BAUXITE INDUSTRY SOURCE AS SAYING THAT THE COMPANIES "THAT ARE LOSING "WERE WORRIED THAT THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION WOULD BE WORSENERD

BY A STRIKE OR LARGE WAGE INCREASES. THE NWU WAS DESCRIBED AS SEEKING A 50 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE FOR THE HIGHER PAID AND A 61 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE FOR THE LOWER PAID WORKERS IN THE INDUSTRY. THE COMPANIES INSIST THAT THEY WILL STICK BY THE WAGE GUIDELINES.

5. THE WORKERS' COUNCIL, ON THE OTHER HAND, POINTED OUT THAT THE BAUXITE COMPANIES HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF ALUMINUM IN 1977 AND FROM THE DEVALUATION OF THE JAMAICAN DOLLAR AS WELL WHICH SHOULD FURTHER INCREASE THEIR PROFITS.  
HAVERKAMP

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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